DEFIANT
9
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THE GOOD GUYS
™
GREG BOONE
MIKE CHEN
'94

HANGIN' at THE MALL

THE CENTER COURT FOUNTAIN OF A SHOPPING MALL IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA...
WOW!
NOT BAD! I'VE SUCKED TEN TIMES MORE HEAT FROM YOU THAN YOUR FRIEND AND THE FOUNTAIN!
YOU SHOULD BE AS ROCK-SOLID AS THEY ARE!
N-NOT YET-- B-BUT I'M CLOSE!
INSIDES FEEL LIKE ICE!
GOTTA GET AWAY--!

STORY BY JIM SHOOTER
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AND YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS. I CAN LET OFF YOUR HEAT 'N' ABSORB MORE OFF YOU, THEN--
HEY! DON'T BACK AWAY FROM ME WHEN I'M TALKING! THAT'S RUDE!
FIRST TIME OUT WITH THE TEAM-- CAN'T--
"-- CAN'T LET 'EM DOWN!"
FIZZSSS
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO THESE SPRINKLERS? WHY IN HECK DON'T THESE THINGS HAPPEN OVER ON JOHNSON'S END OF THE MALL?
GOTTA BE JUST AROUND--
--HOLY--!
WHAT THE HECK PASSES FOR GANG COLORS NOWADAYS?
WHAT HIT ME? WHERE'D THAT BLACK KID GO?
SEE HOW COLD SLOWS YOU DOWN? LIKE A FAT ROACH IN A FREEZER!
--PLEASE-- NO--

HEY YOU! HOLD IT!
OK, THIS IS BLUE-B, I HAVE A SITUATION IN--
HUH? YOU THINK YOU CAN HUSTLE ME AROUND LIKE SOME DUMB KID?
I DON'T THINK SO.
KIDS LIKE ME DON'T HAVE TO GET PUSHED AROUND BY JERKY RENT-A-COPS LIKE YOU.
UNGHF!
GOTTA GO TO THE OTHER SIDE -- SAVE FRONT AND THAT HEATER KID--
AND YOUR WIMPY FRIEND ISN'T GOING TO HELP YOU!
HUH? ONE OF THOSE DEMON-THINGS IS ON FREEZER'S BACK, JUST LIKE CHASM HAD!
ALL THE BAD GUYS HAVE THEM! AND ALL THOSE SPIKY VINES GROWING--
I CAN TAKE YOU BOTH-- WHERE'D HE GO?
IT WAS NEVER THAT OVERGROWN BEFORE.
CAN'T STAY SOLID TOO LONG-- BRAINFLASH IS STILL LOOKING FOR ME!
SO MUCH THE BETTER. I CAN--
HUH? YOU'RE BACK!
BUT I CAN'T GET AROUND THOSE VINES TO THE OTHER SIDE ON TIME!
GONE AGAIN? DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'LL BE MUCH HELP TO YOU!
AND EVEN IF HE COMES BACK, ONCE I'M DONE WITH YOU--
ONLY THING I CAN DO IS --
--NOBODY'LL STOP ME!

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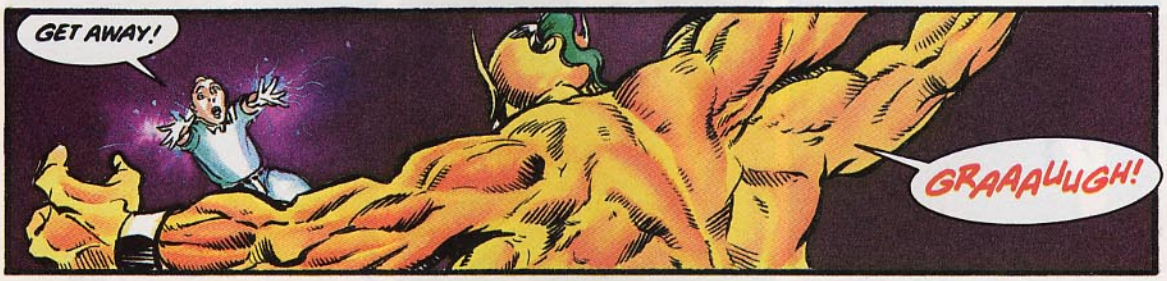
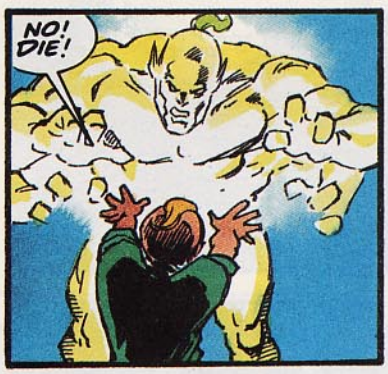
-- JUMP IN MY INVISIBLE FORM --
-- TRY AND GO SOLID AT THE RIGHT TIME--
--AND TRY TO KEEP AWAY FROM HER HANDS!
D'YA HEAR? NOBODY!
OUNGFF!
THAT'S MY NAME. DON'T WEAR-- NO!
HA! GOTCHA!
NOW, SEE, UNLESS YOU'RE A FURNACE LIKE YOUR FRIEND--
--YES! WORKS FAST, DON'T IT?
POPSICLE TIME!
WOW! THAT'S A NEW RECORD! BUT WAIT A MINUTE--
THAT WAS TOO FAST. DIDN'T GET HARDLY ANY HEAT, EITHER.

SO WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
OHMIGOD! I SHATTERED HIM!
EMPTY?
JUST A SHELL. LIKE A PIÑATA--
UNGH!
--AND HERE'S THE SURPRISE!
--GASP--
OKAY NOW-- JUST HAD TO GET MY BREATH. WHERE'S--
FRONT! HE'S GOTTA BE SUFFOCATING!
WE DON'T KNOW HOW HIS POWERS WORK-- HE MIGHT BE FREEZING!
GOTTA-- HUH!?

HOLD OFF, KID. YOU WISH I WAS DONE WITH YOU.
YOU DON'T SCARE ME!

BUT I BET GORO WOULD SCARE YOU.
YAAAAHHHH!


GET AWAY!
GRAAAUUGH!

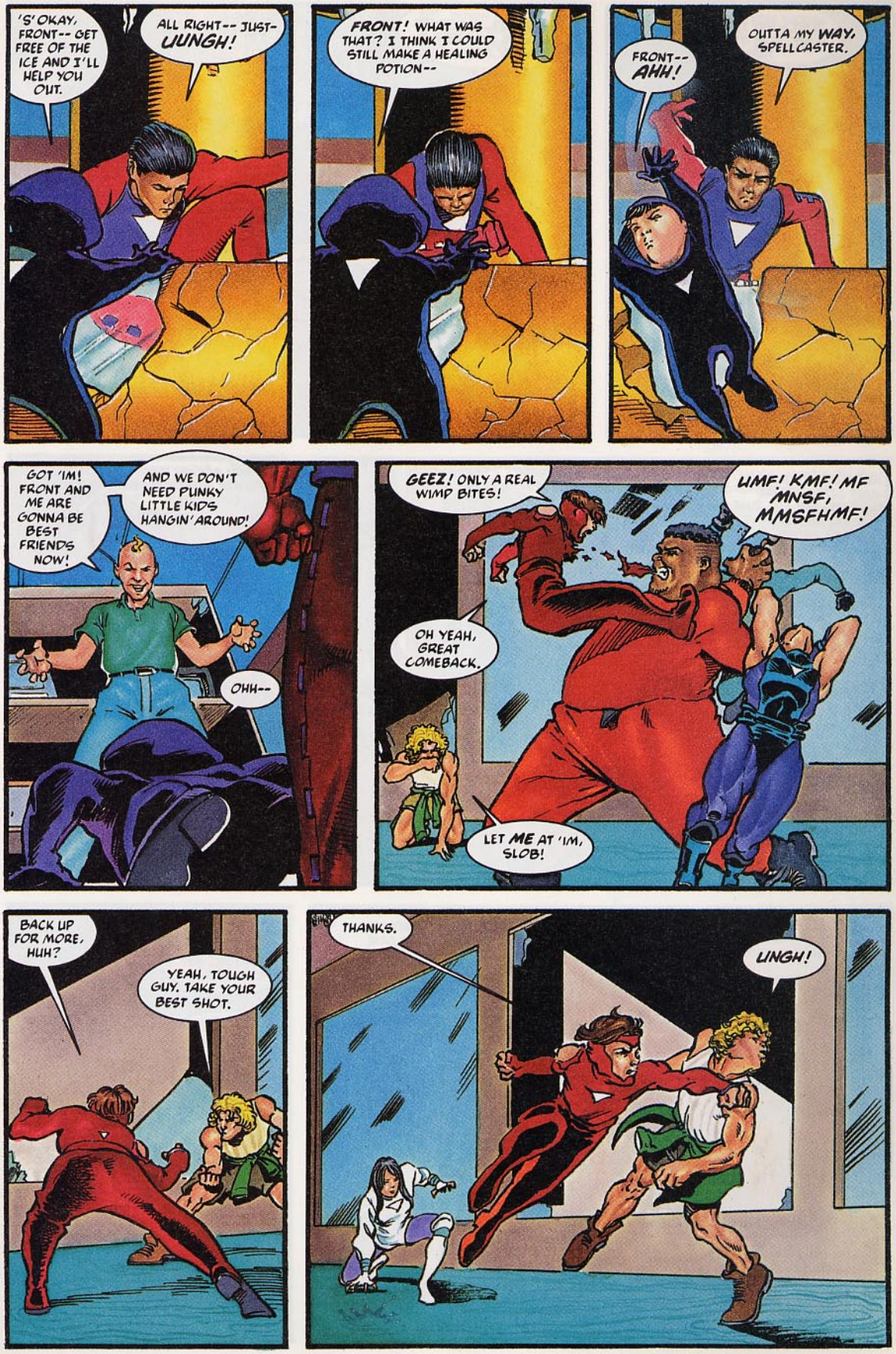

NO! DIE!

NOTHING? BUT--
NO! STOP!

GOTTA STOP HIM SOMEHOW-- MAYBE ONE MORE -- YEAH!

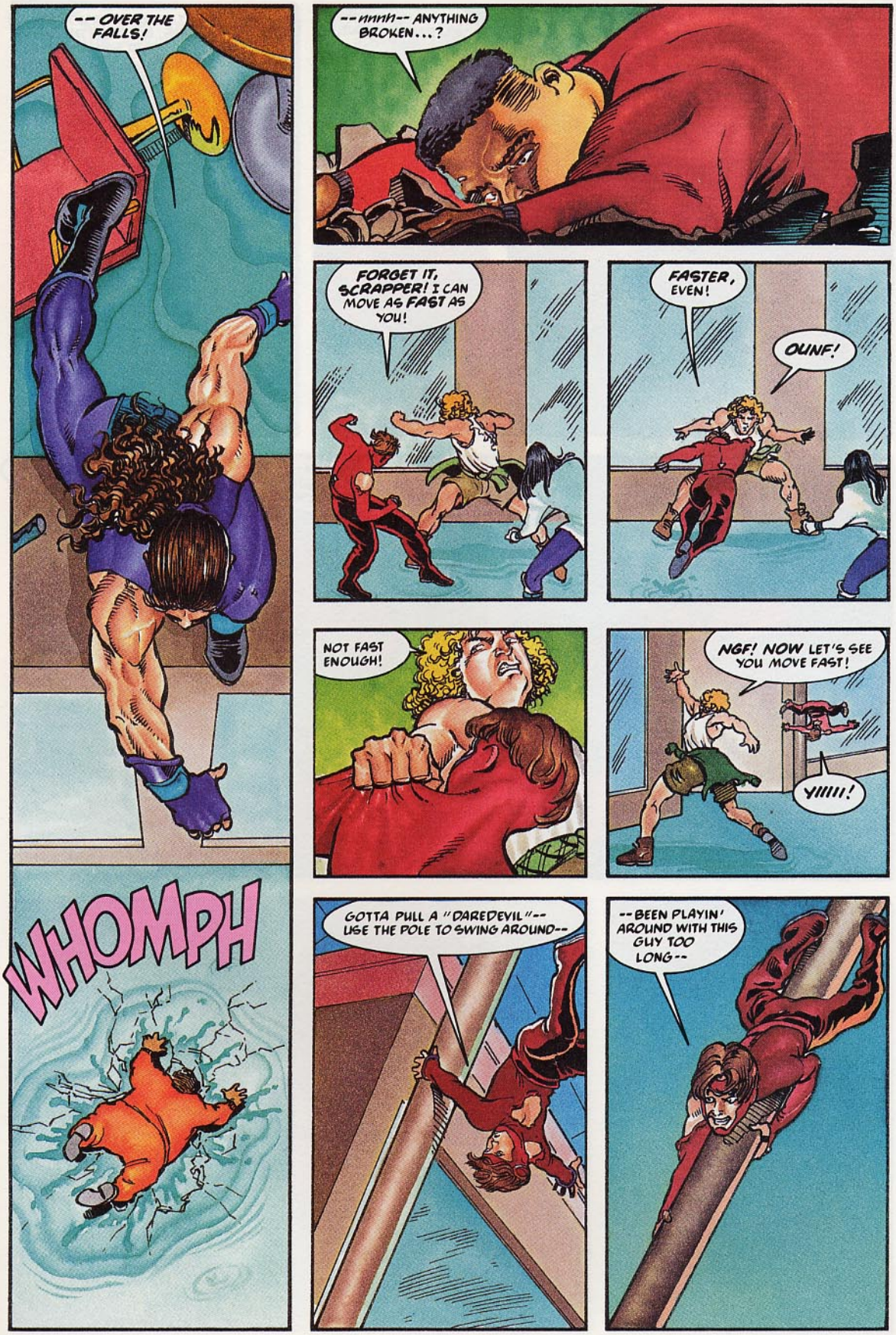
HUH. JUST A BUNCH OF LIGHTS. WHAT A GYP.
I'M ALL RIGHT, ZACK -- BUT I'M COLD AND TIRED--

-- GOTTA REST A LITTLE BEFORE I CAN HELP OUT.


'S' OKAY, FRONT-- GET FREE OF THE ICE AND I'LL HELP YOU OUT.
ALL RIGHT-- JUST- UUNGH!
FRONT! WHAT WAS THAT? I THINK I COULD STILL MAKE A HEALING POTION--
FRONT-- AHH!
OUTTA MY WAY, SPELLCASTER.
GOT 'IM! FRONT AND ME ARE GONNA BE BEST FRIENDS NOW!
AND WE DON'T NEED PUNKY LITTLE KIDS HANGIN' AROUND!
OHH--
GEEZ! ONLY A REAL WIMP BITES!
UMF! KMF! MF MNSF, MMSFHMF!
OH YEAH, GREAT COMEBACK.
LET ME AT 'IM, SLOB!
BACK UP FOR MORE, HUH?
YEAH, TOUGH GUY. TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT.
THANKS.
UNGH!

JUST WHAT I THOUGHT WIMP. NOW IT'S MY TURN.
NOT YET. AMATEURS ALWAYS GO LAST IN MY DOJO!
ACTUALLY, I SHOULD HAVE GONE BEFORE SCRAG, BUT I'LL JUST MAKE HIM DO PUSHUPS LATER.
YOU SEE, SCRAG? FORM MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.
HEY! GET OFF HIM! YOU WANNA FIGHT, LET'S MAKE IT TWO ON TWO!
OOF!
UNGH!
YOU WANT A FAIR FIGHT?
THAT'S A LAUGH. BESIDES, YOU'RE A THREE ON THREE FIGHT ALL BY YOURSELF.
WHAT! YOU SKINNY LITTLE--

COME BACK DOWN HERE AND I'LL LAY YOU OUT!
OH, SLO-O-O-B!
DOWN HERE! DID YOU FORGET ABOUT ME?
HUH? YOU STILL GOT ENOUGH LEFT TO MOUTH OFF?
NOT FOR LONG--
I'D FEEL WORSE ABOUT THIS, BUT FROM THE WAY YOU SMELL--
THIS CAN'T BE THE FIRST TIME A GIRL EVER STRUCK YOU OUT.
Y'KNOW, I NEVER USED TO LIKE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING 'CAUSE IT LOOKED SO PHONY.
ALL THOSE GUYS HOISTING EACH OTHER UP--
TOSSING EACH OTHER AROUND LIKE BEANBAGS--
BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT, WHEN YOU CAN DO IT FOR REAL, IT'S PRETTY EFFECTIVE!
AND NOW, I THINK I'LL CALL MY FINISHING MANEUVER--

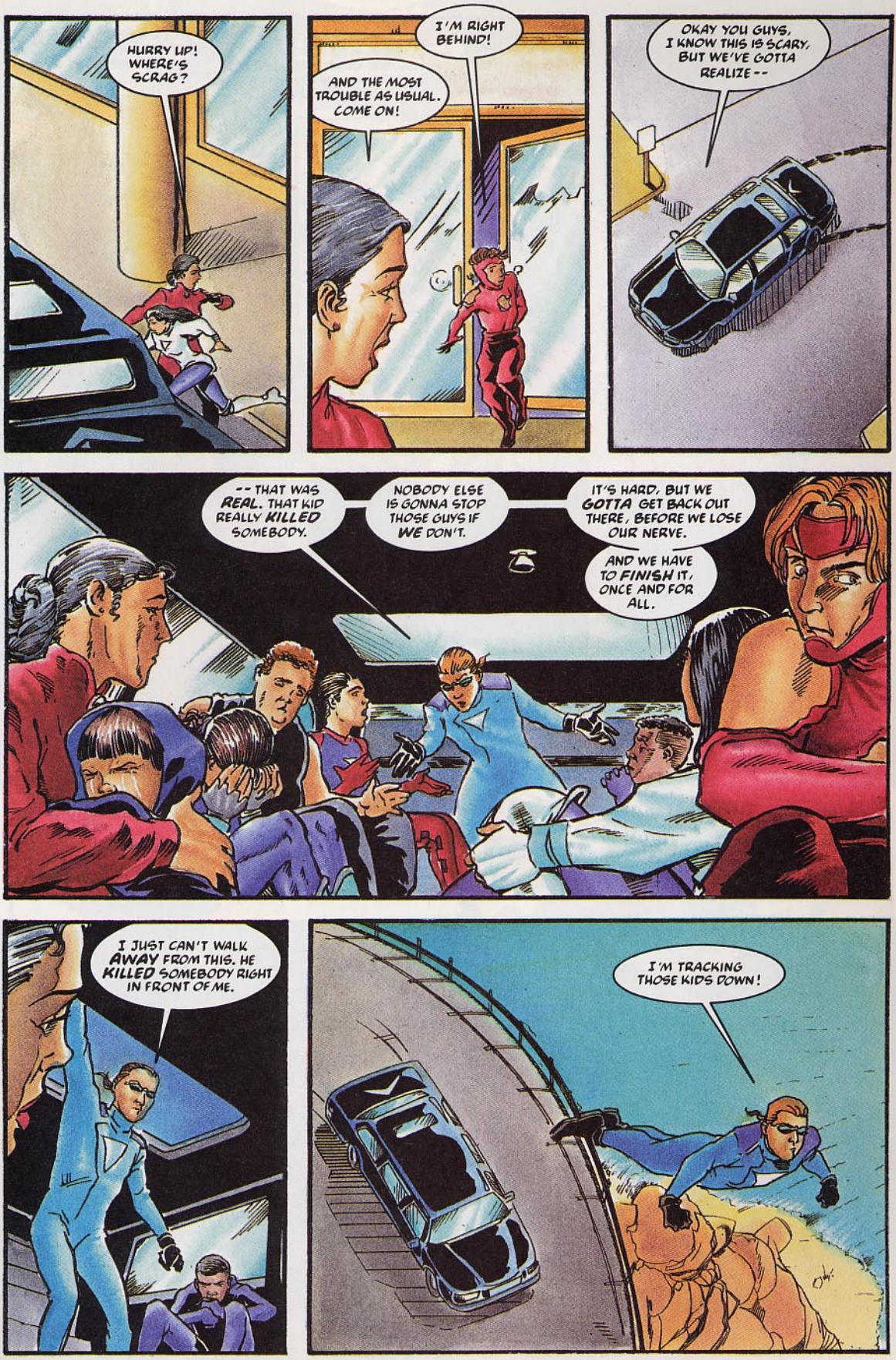

-- OVER THE FALLS!
--mmm-- ANYTHING BROKEN...?
FORGET IT, SCRAPPER! I CAN MOVE AS FAST AS YOU!
FASTER, EVEN!
OUNF!
NOT FAST ENOUGH!
NGF! NOW LET'S SEE YOU MOVE FAST!
YIIIII!
WHOMPH
GOTTA PULL A "DAREDEVIL"-- USE THE POLE TO SWING AROUND--
--BEEN PLAYIN' AROUND WITH THIS GUY TOO LONG--

NOW IT'S TIME--
REAL!
TO GET--
I THINK THAT DID IT.
YEAH, BUT--
-- IT'S NOT OVER YET.
OKAY, BOYS AND GIRLS.
YOU WANT ME, YOU GET TO GO THROUGH YOUR PAL FRONT HERE FIRST.
HARRY? HARRY?! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HUH?

OKAY, FREEZE! NOBODY MOVE! CENTRAL, THIS IS BLUE-2, WE NEED AN AMBULANCE AND A SQUAD CAR ON THE NORTH COURT, CODE 1!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, BUT ONE WRONG MOVE, AND WE'LL BE ASKING YOUR PARENTS THE QUESTIONS!
SEE? WE FIGHT 'EM FOR AN HOUR AND THE COP STOPS 'EM IN A SECOND.
IT'D BE A LOT EASIER IF WE TOOK THESE GUYS OUT WITH GUNS!
NO! YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT HOW GOOD GUYS ARE SUPPOSED TO WORK!
GOTTA GRAB COP'S BRAIN TOO -- CAN'T -- CAN'T HOLD TWO AT THE SAME TIME --
I SAID FREEZE! THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING!
NO! I WON'T GO TO JAIL!
LET FRONT GO-- PULL EVERYTHING TOGETHER AND FOCUS HARD --
YEAH! MY BRAIN'S BUSTIN'! STOP THE COP?

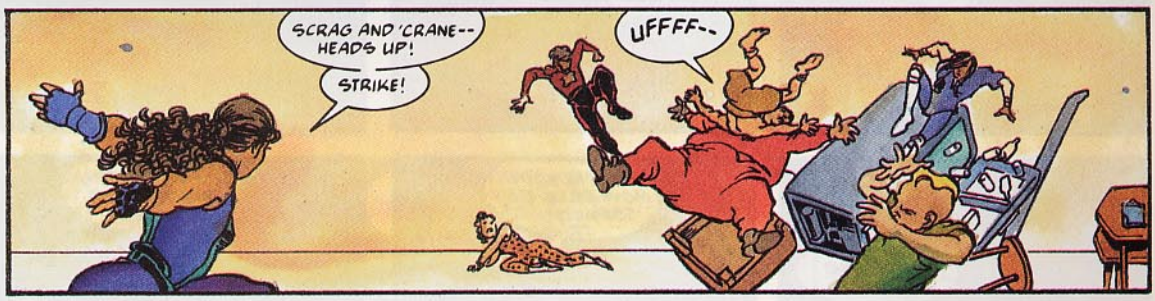
NO PROBLEM!!
NO-!
YESSS!
NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE MORTAL KOMBAT!
Ohhh-- MY ACHIN' BACK! I DON'T WANNA DO THIS ANYMORE!
SLOB! GRAB THE OTHERS AND LET'S JET BEFORE THE COPS SHOW! MOVE!
WHAT ABOUT THOSE PUNKS?
WE SHOWED THEM WHO'S IN CHARGE. WE'LL TRACK DOWN WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM LATER.

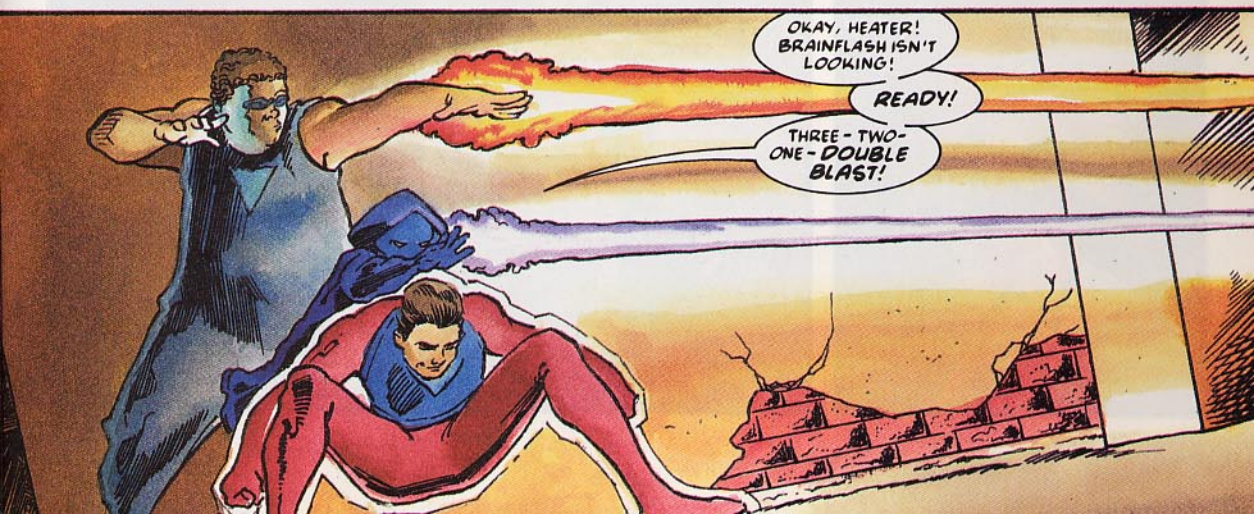
FOR NOW, WE CAN RELAX AND CELEBRATE. I RUN THIS GANG, NOW I RUN THIS MALL. PRETTY SOON I'LL RUN THIS CITY, AND THEN--
--WELL, THEN, THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE. ASSUMING YOU GUYS ARE STILL AROUND, OF COURSE.
KRSH
C'MON YOU GUYS, I HEAR SIRENS. WE BETTER GO!
-- OMIGOD, OMIGOD, OMIGOD--
DON'T LOOK, ZACK!
-- BUT SHOULDN'T WE--
RECON'S RIGHT. WE CAN'T BE CAUGHT. THEY MIGHT THINK WE DID IT.
C'MON, SCRAG! TIA'S WAITING!
OKAY, OKAY--
I'M RIGHT BEHIND--HEY! IF I HAD--!


HURRY UP! WHERE'S SCRAG?
I'M RIGHT BEHIND!
AND THE MOST TROUBLE AS USUAL. COME ON!
OKAY YOU GUYS, I KNOW THIS IS SCARY, BUT WE'VE GOTTA REALIZE--
-- THAT WAS REAL. THAT KID REALLY KILLED SOMEBODY.
NOBODY ELSE IS GONNA STOP THOSE GUYS IF WE DON'T.
IT'S HARD, BUT WE GOTTA GET BACK OUT THERE, BEFORE WE LOSE OUR NERVE.
AND WE HAVE TO FINISH IT, ONCE AND FOR ALL.
I JUST CAN'T WALK AWAY FROM THIS. HE KILLED SOMEBODY RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
I'M TRACKING THOSE KIDS DOWN!

ELSEWHERE...
JUST FIRED UP THE OL' BRAIN LIGHTNING--
-- AND POW! JUST LIKE IN MORTAL KOMBAT, I'M TELLIN' YA!
I MEAN HALF OVER HERE, HALF DOWN HERE-- YOU COULD SEE RIGHT THROUGH HIS EYEHOLES AND EVERYTHING!
OR MAYBE "TALES FROM THE CRYPT", HUH, BRAINFLASH?
HEY--
QUIET FOR A SECOND-- CAN YOU HEAR--?
UH-- GUYS--!
HUH? YOU AGAIN?
YEAH. US AGAIN. FOR THE LAST TIME.

OKAY, LET'S MAKE IT COUNT, TEAM!
NO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS HERE! LET ME MOVE YOU GIRLS OUTTA THE WAY.
HEATER! SPELLCASTER! STAY BEHIND ME!
IT WON'T WORK A SECOND TIME, BRAINFLASH!
HEY! I'M SUPPOSED TO HIT HIM HIGH!
YES, AND YOU ARE. I'M JUST HITTING HIM HIGHER.
Beery


SCRAG AND 'CRANE-- HEADS UP!
STRIKE!
UFFFF--


OKAY, HEATER! BRAINFLASH ISN'T LOOKING!
READY!
THREE - TWO- ONE - DOUBLE BLAST!

YE-AH! FINISHING MOVE!
PEEYUCK. HE'S GONNA NEED TO GET TO THE BURN CENTER.
Ahh-aiii-ahhh--
THAT MAKES THREE, WITH SCRAPPER AND SLOB OVER HERE. NICE JOB, FLEX.
PHLZZZT!
HA-HA, THE REFRIGERATOR'S OUT!
HA-HA, NO I'M NOT!
OKAY, NOBODY MOVE OR HE'S A TOTSICLE!
WAIT. WHERE'S THE INVISIBLE KID?

LOOKING FOR ME? DOWN HERE.

WHOOPS, NO! I'M UP HERE.

OH, I GET IT. YOU JUST WANTED TO **TRADE PLACES!** FINE WITH ME.

IT'S WEIRD, BUT I THINK I HEAR THE COPS COMING...

JUST LIKE I COULD HEAR THESE GUYS TALKING BEFORE WE BUSTED IN!

IT'S LIKE MY **EARS** HAVE GOTTEN **REALLY** SENSITIVE!

THAT SHOULD KEEP THEM IN 'TIL THE COPS GET HERE.

MAN, WHAT A GREAT STRATEGY! I HATE TO ERASE THIS **GAME PLAN.**

BOY, WE WERE REALLY A **TEAM** IN THERE!

BUT THEY'RE **BAD GUYS!** I BET PEOPLE SAW THEM AT THE MALL -- SO IF THE POLICE FIND THEM TIED UP--

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. WE NEED EVIDENCE. I'LL CALL MR. GATESMAN AND SEE WHAT HE CAN DO.

BACK AT THE MALL...

YEAH, I'M ON THE SCENE. I'LL LOOK AROUND, INTERVIEW THE WITNESSES, THEN ADVISE. OUT.

WHAT'S UP, BLONDALE?

MY BLOOD PRESSURE, THE SHAQ, GANG DRIVE-BYS. IS THIS **REALLY** WORTH MY TIME?

SEE FOR YOURSELF. WATCH OUT. THE 187's A TOSSER.

GEEZ, HE WASN'T KIDDIN'. GLAD I HAVEN'T EATEN YET.

I'LL TELL YA SOMETHIN' ELSE--

I JUST GOT INTERESTED. YOU SEE THAT? WE'RE TALKING SINGLE SHOT. HIGH CALIBER.

NO **KID** HELD THE GUN THAT DID **THAT**. SEARCH THE AREA. FIND THE SLUG. AND CALL A MEATWAGON.

TURN OVER SOME CHEMICAL SUPPLY HOUSES. THIS HAS GOTTA BE SOMETHING LIKE DRY ICE.

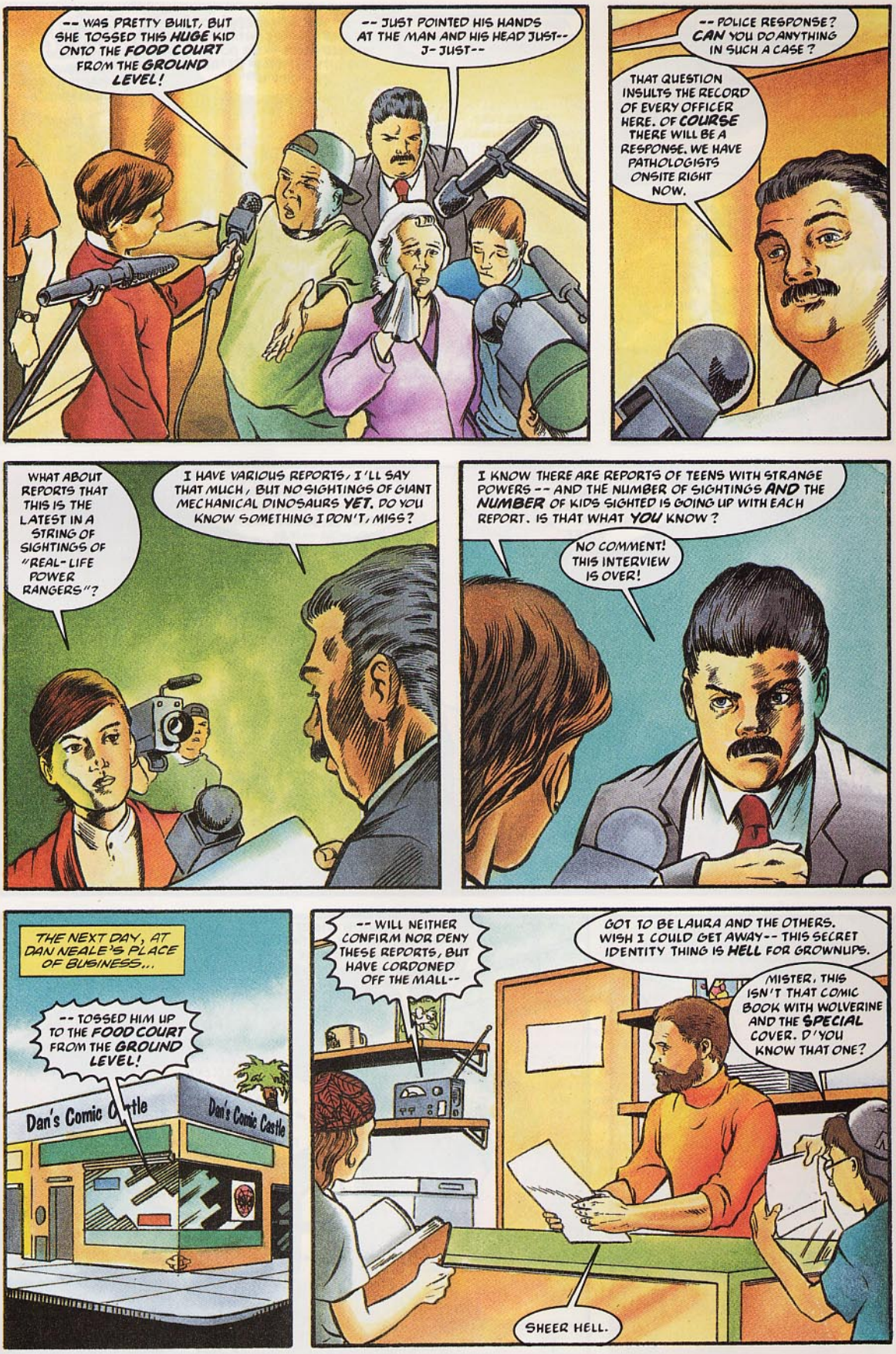
AND WHAT THE HECK HIT THIS FOUNTAIN? IT'S SOLID STONE!

YEAH, THEY HAD TO HAVE **HEAVY** EQUIPMENT FOR ALL THIS. CHECK SOME CONSTRUCTION SITES, SEE WHAT TURNS UP MISSING.

SEE IF YOU CAN GET SOME CASTS FROM THAT CRATER -- THERE SHOULD BE TRACKS.

WE GOT THIS FROM ONSITE. RING ANY BELLS?

NO GANG I'VE SEEN AROUND. WE WE NEED TO GET A BETTER FIX ON THEIR TURF.


-- WAS PRETTY BUILT, BUT SHE TOSSED THIS HUGE KID ONTO THE FOOD COURT FROM THE GROUND LEVEL!
-- JUST POINTED HIS HANDS AT THE MAN AND HIS HEAD JUST-- J- JUST--
-- POLICE RESPONSE? CAN YOU DO ANYTHING IN SUCH A CASE?
THAT QUESTION INSULTS THE RECORD OF EVERY OFFICER HERE. OF COURSE THERE WILL BE A RESPONSE. WE HAVE PATHOLOGISTS ONSITE RIGHT NOW.
WHAT ABOUT REPORTS THAT THIS IS THE LATEST IN A STRING OF SIGHTINGS OF "REAL-LIFE POWER RANGERS"?
I HAVE VARIOUS REPORTS, I'LL SAY THAT MUCH, BUT NO SIGHTINGS OF GIANT MECHANICAL DINOSAURS YET. DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T, MISS?
I KNOW THERE ARE REPORTS OF TEENS WITH STRANGE POWERS -- AND THE NUMBER OF SIGHTINGS AND THE NUMBER OF KIDS SIGHTED IS GOING UP WITH EACH REPORT. IS THAT WHAT YOU KNOW?
NO COMMENT! THIS INTERVIEW IS OVER!
THE NEXT DAY, AT DAN NEALE'S PLACE OF BUSINESS...
-- TOSSED HIM UP TO THE FOOD COURT FROM THE GROUND LEVEL!
Dan's Comic Castle
Dan's Comic Castle
-- WILL NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THESE REPORTS, BUT HAVE CORDONED OFF THE MALL--
GOT TO BE LAURA AND THE OTHERS. WISH I COULD GET AWAY-- THIS SECRET IDENTITY THING IS HELL FOR GROWNUPS.
MISTER, THIS ISN'T THAT COMIC BOOK WITH WOLVERINE AND THE SPECIAL COVER. D'YOU KNOW THAT ONE?
SHEER HELL.

CEDARS SINAI HOSPITAL...
-- AND THE MAN'S HEAD JUST--J-JUST--
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT FOR TODAY, MR. FINGERMAN.
THEM. IT WAS-- THEM.
HUNTINGTON BEACH...
--N' WALKIE TALKIES, SO WE CAN STAY IN CONTACT! AND WE NEED MAPS -- WE GOTTA KNOW THE CITY BETTER IF WE'RE GONNA PROTECT IT!
AND WE SHOULD ALL GET MORE TRAINING. MARTIAL ARTS, ACROBATICS--
AND WE SHOULD WORK OUT CODE WORDS AND BATTLE STRATEGIES, SO WE KNOW WHAT TO DO FROM THE START.
AND FIRST AID TRAINING TOO. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP PEOPLE, BESIDES FIGHT.
THESE ARE ALL GOOD IDEAS, BUT I'VE GOT TO ADMIT--
WHEN I ASKED "CAN I GET YOU GUYS ANYTHING", I WAS THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF BANANA SPLITS OR SOMETHING.
-- SO THAT'S WHERE WE ARE. THEY'RE PUTTING A LIST TOGETHER NOW.
EXCELLENT. THIS IS REALLY COMING ALONG. TEAMWORK, RESOLVE, A SENSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR ACTIONS -- THEY'RE DOING GREAT. I'M IMPRESSED.
GET THEIR LISTS TO ME AS SOON AS YOU CAN, TIA.

SO, UM, YOU GUYS WANNA COME BACK TO MY HOUSE?
THANKS, BUT WE GOTTA LET OUR MOM KNOW WE'RE OKAY. SHE'S GONNA BE UPSET AS IT IS.
MY PARENTS WILL BE VERY CONCERNED, TOO, I HAVE TO GO HOME.
LET'S ALL MEET THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW- IT'S NOT A SCHOOL DAY.
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
WHERE'S ZACK? AND NOBODY?
I DON'T KNOW. I WAS JUST GIVING TIA A HAND PUTTING AWAY THE LAST OF THESE TOYS AND UNPACKING THE GOOD STUFF.
I SWEAR, THAT KID'S ALWAYS IN YOUR FACE WHEN YOU DON'T WANT HIM BUT WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HIM -- NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.
ZACK? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? SCRAG'S BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
WOW! YOU GUYS SHOULDA BEEN THERE! IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE!
I WAS WITH NOBODY AND THERE WAS THIS GUY AND HE COULD DISAPPEAR JUST LIKE NOBODY COULD AND HE WAS TAKING THE WISH BOX AND THEN I GOT IT FROM HIM AND THEN A BUNCH OF MONSTERS CAME AND TRIED TO TAKE IT FROM ME BUT I MADE 'EM DISAPPEAR INTO A MAGIC DOOR AND -- OH...
COOL! IS THE STUFF HERE ALREADY?

LOOK! IT EVEN LIGHTS UP!

HEATER? GREAT, huh? THESE ARE BETTER THAN WALKIE-TALKIES! TRY THE LITTLE CAMERA!

TOP O'THE LINE POWER MAC, TRIPLE-SPEED CD-ROM-- EXCELLENT! WE'RE CYBERWORTHY!

THE SYSTEM'S KEYED INTO THE SECURITY MONITORS -- HEY! IT'S THAT LADY WE MET IN NEW YORK, MRS. JOHNSON! SHE'S AT THE FRONT DOOR!

I WONDER HOW SHE KNEW WHERE OUR NEW SECRET HQ WAS?

OH WELL. I CAN LET HER IN, SHE'S COOL-- SHE'S A SUPER-HERO LIKE US!

SECONDS LATER...

IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MRS. J! WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

KIDS, I CAN'T EXPLAIN THE WHOLE THING NOW -- THERE'S NO TIME, BUT...

... THE WHOLE WORLD IS IN DANGER. SOME FRIENDS OF MINE AND I ARE TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

... BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.

IT'LL BE VERY DANGEROUS... AND I HATE TO ASK YOU KIDS... YOU'RE SO YOUNG...

MRS. JOHNSON, WE'RE YOUNG, BUT WE'RE NOT KIDS ANYMORE.

YOU HELPED US WHEN WE WERE JUST LEARNING... IF - YOU NEED US NOW... YOU GOT IT.

GOOD TIMING. DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN MUCH HELP.

TODAY... NOW... WE'RE READY.

LET'S GO.

NEXT ISSUE: *THE GOOD GUYS GO TO AVALON!*